

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 10952 182144Z
ACTION IO-14

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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 10952

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, IN
SUBJECT: INDIAN VIEWS ON BELGRADE NAM MEETING

REF: A. STATE 179537 B. USUN 2915

BEGIN SUMMARY:

1. EMBOFF JULY 18 DISCUSSED WITH MEA'S UN DIRECTOR RAMESH MULYE BELGRADE NON-ALIGNED MEETING PER INSTRUCTIONS REFTEL. MULYE WAS ATTENTIVE BUT GENERALLY NON-COMMITTAL. END SUMMARY.
2. CUBA: ON THE QUESTION OF DISSATISFACTION WITH CUBA AMONG NAM MEMBERS, MULYE DECONE TO SPECULATE ON HOW ISSUE WOULD BE HANDLED AT BELGRADE. HE NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO CONFRONTATION AT HAVANA AND SAID HE THOUGHT THAT THE OUTCOME OF THE OAU'S KHARTOUM MEETING WOULD BE VERY IMPORTANT FACTOR IN DETERMINING EVENTS AT BELGRADE. REGARDING CUBA'S IDEOLOGICAL PRESSURE TACTICS, MULYE EXPECTED CUBA TO CONTINUE TO PUSH BUT SAID "WE WILL NOT LET IT HAPPEN". HE DID NOT SEEM TO CONSIDER THE INCREASED ATTENDANCE OF MODERATE MEMBERS AS IMPORTANT IN THIS REGARD AS THE FACT THAT YUGOSLAVIA AS THE HOST IS DRAFTING THE BASIC DOCUMENTS WHICH WILL THEREFORE BE MODERATE IN TONE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NEW DE 10952 182144Z

3. MEMBERSHIP: MULYE WAS NOT RESPNSIVE SPECIFICALLY TO QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF INCREASED NAM MEMBRSHIP AND MORE LATIN AMERICAN PARTICIPATION. HE AGREED THAT AS A REGION LATIN AMERICA WAS UNDER-REPRESENTED BUT SAID THAT INDIA'S ATTITUDE TOWARD MEMBERSHIP WAS NOT CONCERNED WITH GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION BUT FOCUSSED ON CRITERIA AND CONSENSUS. INDIA, IN PRINCIPLE, HE SAID,

DOES NOT HOLD THE VIEW THAT THE CRITERIA OF NON-ALIGNMENT SHOULD APPLY ONLY TO MEMBER STATUS AND OBSERVER STATUS; THE GOI THINKS CRITERIA SHOULD ALSO APPLY TO GUEST STATUS FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT MEET THE CRITERIA (E.G; ROMANIA, PORTUGAL, THE PHILIPPINES); INDIA WILL NOT OPPOSE GUEST STATUS FOR EQUIVALENT CASES IF A CONSENSUS OTHERWISE EXISTS. HE SAID THIS IS WHAT THE GOI HAD TOLD THE PAKISTANIS. AS FOR MEMBERSHIP FOR LATIN AMERICAN STATES SUCH AS BOLIVIA AND COSTA RICA, MULYE SAID THERE WAS NOT NECESSARILY A CONSENSUS SINCE THERE WAS SOME OBJECTION (HE SEEMED TO IMPLY TO BOLIVIA) BECAUSE OF TRADE WITH SOUTH AFRICA, WHICH THOSE IN OPPOSITION READ AS LACK OF SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENTS. ASKED HOW THIS AFFECTED A NON-ALIGNED STATUS, MULYE PROMPTLY READ FROM AN UNIDENTIFIED DOCUMENT WHICH HE SAID LISTED FIVE CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP:

- 1) A NON-ALIGNED FOREIGN POLICY,
- 2) SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENTS,
- 3) NON-MEMBERSHIP IN GREAT POWER MILITARY PACTS,
- 4) NON-MEMBERSHIP IN REGIONAL PACTS AND
- 5) NO FOREIGN BASES.

THIS CURIOUS LISTING, HOWEVER, ALSO ADDED APPARENT LOOP-HOLES IN CRITERIA 3, 4, AND 5 BY STATING THAT IF SUCH MEMBERSHIP OR BASES EXISTED THEY SHOULD NOT BE UNDERTAKEN FOR PURPOSES OF FURTHERING GREAT POWER AIMS.

4. NACB: REGARDING WINDING UP THE NACB AND PERHAPS REPLACING
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NEW DE 10952 182144Z

IT WITH A WIDER FORUM, MULYE SAID THE MEA HAD HEARD "VAGUE RUMORS" OF SOME SUGGESTIONS TO THIS EFFECT. IN SHARP CONTRAST TO PERM REP JAIPAL'S STATEMENT (REF B), HOWEVER, MULYE SAID THE GOI HAD NOT TAKEN A POSITION ON THIS. HE SAID HE THOUGHT THAT THERE WOULD BE TOO MUCH OPPOSITION TO THE DRASTIC STEP OF ABOLISHING THE BUREAU AND REVIEWED THE REASONS WHY IT WAS ESTABLISHED IN THE FIRST PLACE. HE DID NOT AGREE WITH THE VIEW OF THOSE WHO THOUGHT THAT THE NACB HAD USURPED SOME OF THE FUNCTIONS OF PLENARY SINCE THE BUREAU DOESN'T TAKE DECISIONS.

5. ON SPECIFIC SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES, MULYE LISTENED ATTENTIVELY BUT MADE NO COMMITMENTS ON INDIA'S ULTIMATE POSITIONS. IN ALMOST ALL INSTANCES, HE SAID, THIS WOULD DEPEND ON POLITICAL EVENTS AT THE TIME OF THE MEETING AND THE KIND OF LANGUAGE PRODUCED FOR THE DECLARATION.

A) SOUTHERN AFRICA: MULYE AGREED WITH OUR HOPES AND THOUGHT THAT NAMIBIAN SITUATION LOOKED PROMISING. HE ASKED IF WE HAD ANY INFORMATION AS TO WHEN THE SECURITY COUNCIL MIGHT BE EXPECTED TO MEET.

B) THE MIDDLE EAST: MULYE WAS ATTENTIVE BUT ESSENTIALLY NON-COMMITAL, IN KEEPING WITH GOI'S USUAL POSITION OF NOT TAKING A

LEAD ON THIS ISSUE. ON THE RELATED ISSUE OF ZIONISM AS RACISM, MULYE SAID HE RECOGNIZED THE PROBLEMS THAT THIS CRATED BUT SAID THAT NEVERTHELESS THE PALESTINIANS AND OTHERS FELT STRONGLY ABOUT THIS ISSUE AND THAT EVEN THE EGYPTIANS DID NOT OPPOSE THE LINKAGE.

C) KOREA: MULYE IMPLIED THAT INDIA WOULD AGAIN OPPOSE A ONE-SIDED RESOLUTION AND WOULD MAKE ITS DECISION ON THE BASIS OF THE FINAL LANGUAGE PRESENTED.

D) PUERTO RICO: REGARDING OUR DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE GOI HAD NOT TAKEN RESERVATION AT HAVANA, MULYE DISAGREED WITH EMBOFF'S VIEW THAT LANGUAGE ON PUERTO RICO IN THAT DOCUMENT WAS VERY SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE NEW DELHI COMMUNIQUE WHERE INDIA HAD RESERVED. HE REITERATED, HOWEVER, THAT INDIA WOULD TAKE NO DECISION UNTIL FINAL DRAFT FORMULATED.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 04 NEW DE 10952 182144Z

E) BASIC HUMAN NEEDS: POLOFF BRIEFLY REVIEWED OUR POSITION ON BASIC HUMAN NEEDS TOMULYE. (ECON OFFICER HAS ALSO CONVEYED OUR POSITION TO ARUNDHATI GHOSE, UN DIRECTOR FOR ECONOMIC MATTERS, WITH WHOM WE HAVE DISCUSSED ISSUE IN THE PAST.)

6. INDIAN DELEGATION: MEMBERS OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION GOING FROM NEW DELHI TO BELGRADE WILL BE FOREIGN MINISTER VAJPAYEE, FOREIGN SECRETARY MEHTA, ADDITIONAL SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION N.P. JAIN (UNTIL JUST RECENTLY IN CHARGE OF UN AFFAIRS AND THUS ATTENDING BELGRADE TO PROVIDE CONTINUITY), THE NEW JOINT SECRETARY FOR UN AFFAIRS M. DUBE (UNTIL VERY RECENTLY IN CHARGE OF BANGLADESH) MULYE AND GHOSE. PERMREP JAIPAL WILL ALSO ATTEND.

7. COMMENT: AS ADDRESSEES WILL NOTE FROM THIS AND PREVIOUS REPORTING, MEA OFFICIALS SUCH AS N.P. JAIN AND MULYE ARE FAR MORE CIRCUMSPECT IN DISCUSSING NAM INTERNAL MACHINATIONS AND INDIAN TACTICS THAN IS UN PERMREP JAIPAL. A CASE IN POINT IS THE GOI POSITION ON THE FUTURE OF THE BUREAU. WE DO NOT KNOW IF THIS MEANS THAT MULYE IS BEING LESS THAN FRANK WITH US OR WHETHER JAIPAL'S VIEWS HAVE YET TO BE TRANSLATED INTO POLICY. MULYE'S RESPONSES WOULD INDICATE TO US AT A MINIMUM, HOWEVER, THAT JAIPAL DOESNT SEEM TO BE REPORTING HOME ALL HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH USUN. GOHEEN

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